

## U.S. COPYRIGHT OFFICE LEADERSHIP



### **William J. Roberts, Jr.**

#### **Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Public Information and Education**

William J. Roberts, Jr. is the Associate Register of Copyrights and Director of Public Information and Education for the United States Copyright Office (USCO). He was appointed to the position in 2014.

In his position, Roberts heads the Office of Public Information and Education which informs and carries out the work of the USCO and the Register by providing authoritative information about the copyright law to the public, and education through various public outreach programs. The Office of Public Information and Education publishes the copyright law and other provisions of title 17, maintains a robust and accurate public website, creates and distributes a variety of circulars, information sheets, and newsletters. In addition, the Office responds to public inquiries regarding provisions of the law, explains registration policies and practices and other copyright-related topics, and plans and executes a variety of educational activities and outreach.

Roberts joined the USCO in 1987 as an attorney in the Office of General counsel after having previously engaged in private practice. He was a Judge on the U.S. Copyright Royalty Board from 2006-2013, and was previously an adjunct professor at the Catholic University Columbus School of Law and the George Mason University School of Law.

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## **ABOUT THE USCO**

Congress created the Copyright Office in 1897 as a separate department of the Library of Congress. The Register of Copyrights serves by appointment of, and under the general direction of, the Librarian of Congress. Congress enacted the first federal Copyright Act in 1790 in accordance with Article 1, section 8 of the United States Constitution, “to promote the progress of science and the useful arts by securing for limited times to authors and inventors the exclusive right to their respective discoveries.”